



BRIEFING: SEPTEMBER 16, 2014, BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEM #3

TO: Chairman Richard and Board Members

FROM: Andrew Mack, Chief Operating Officer, XpressWest

DATE: September 16, 2014

RE: Update on the XpressWest project

Background

Andrew Mack, Chief Operating Officer of XpressWest will provide an update on the XpressWest project and its potential interface with the California High-Speed Rail program.

XpressWest is an interstate high-speed passenger-only railroad federally approved for construction and operation between Las Vegas, NV and Victorville, CA. The project will be built on dedicated tracks primarily within the I-15 freeway right-of-way with no at-grade crossings and using fully electric multiple unit steel wheel on rail high-speed train technology.

Discussion

XpressWest has been coordinating with the High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Authority, Los Angeles Metropolitan Transportation Authority, Caltrans, and the California High-Speed Rail Authority (Authority) on the EIS/EIR for the multi-purpose corridor that is planned to connect Victorville, CA and Palmdale, CA with a multi-purpose freeway and high-speed rail corridor. In its 2035 Regional Transportation Plan, the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) included XpressWest from Palmdale through Victorville to Las Vegas as a major strategic plan project and component of the ultimate vision for a high-speed rail system connecting San Diego, Anaheim, Los Angeles, and Las Vegas.

Completion of the High Desert Corridor would provide for an interface between XpressWest and California high-speed rail system in Palmdale. This connection will enhance ridership and benefit both systems as well as the overall southwest rail network.

Recommendation

This is an informational item only, staff does not recommend any Board action at this time.